

system largely unequipped to handle the unique dynamics of sexual predation. Ally's killer should never have been free, let alone work around the general public.

In less than a decade, The ALLY Foundation has had a profound impact on public policy. It is impossible to know how many lives have been saved or how many were spared the physical and emotional scars of sexual abuse and violence. But the fact remains that thanks to The ALLY Foundation, public officials and employers are far better educated and equipped to enact laws and adjust policies to reflect the unique nature of sexual violence. I commend Andrea and Steve for all they do.

ROONEY NOMINATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in March, I was compelled to place a hold on the nomination of Jo Ann Rooney to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, when I was not satisfied that the military had properly investigated the mistreatment of some members of the Oregon National Guard who were demobilizing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, JBLM.

I am pleased to say that today I am lifting that hold.

I have had meetings and exchanged letters with Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Army Vice Chief of Staff General Peter Chiarelli, Major General Philip Volpe, Jo Ann Rooney, and Dr. Clifford Stanley, who will be Dr. Rooney's supervisor if she is confirmed. I have also received several documents related to the investigations, and written answers to more than 60 questions about the investigations.

I am satisfied that the actions taken by the Army put them on the right path to ensuring that future National Guard soldiers receive all of the care and benefits to which they are entitled.

I will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the changes the Army is making. However, I believe that Dr. Rooney would, if confirmed, work to ensure that all servicemembers get appropriate medical care, and improve the demobilization process.

I would urge the Senate to quickly and positively act on Dr. Rooney's nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. PAMPERIN

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Mr. Thomas J. Pamperin of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. After nearly four decades of public service, beginning with the U.S. Army and now as the VA's Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance, Tom

is retiring. From his days as a VA claims examiner in Milwaukee to his present leadership position, he has ably served our Nation's veterans.

Tom has earned an excellent reputation with Members of Congress and their staff, especially with that of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I was proud to serve as chairman during the 109th and 110th Congresses. He also receives high praise from leaders of veterans service organizations, the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Justice. He has represented the VA with distinction before the Congress, other Federal agencies, and foreign delegations.

During my chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Tom was the "go to person" for matters of critical importance to veterans, especially those seeking compensation for their war wounds. When time was of the essence, he cut through the red tape and personally saw to it that the veteran got the benefits that were due. More broadly, he has led efforts to improve the delivery of benefits to all veterans, including initiatives to ease the burden of proof for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, to enable veterans to begin the claims process before discharge from military service, to better coordinate the delivery of military and VA benefits, and to automate claims for higher education benefits under the new G.I. bill.

In particular, I thank Tom for the work he did in improving VA's evaluation of and ratings for veterans with traumatic brain injuries, TBI. Soon after becoming chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I asked former VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Daniel L. Cooper, about limitations on TBI ratings to 10 percent "and no more." Tom played a significant role in VA's response: He developed temporary guidance so that VA could promptly address cases where the limitation should not be applied and developed final regulations to ensure more appropriate ratings in subsequent claims. Tom's actions had an immediate and sustained impact on the lives of veterans who were injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nearly 40 years of service to the Nation demonstrates a commitment to public service matched by few. Tom has worked tirelessly to ensure that veterans receive the benefits that they deserve, a goal that has become ever more challenging with increases in the number of servicemembers returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan who have serious injuries, the demand for G.I. bill benefits, and the number of compensable illnesses. Over the course of his career, Tom has devoted himself to delivering on the Nation's promise to care for the veteran and his widow. I applaud his dedication, hard work, and countless achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his many years

of service to the country and to the many veterans whose lives he has improved in such crucial ways. His record is an example of public service at its best, and I deeply appreciate his long commitment to those who have worn the nation's uniform. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and know that all of us who have counted on him over the years will miss him.●

WORLD WAR II HEROES FLIGHT

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge and honor a very special group of veterans. In appreciation for their selfless service to our country, Brookshire's Grocery Store and Super 1 Foods have sponsored a World War II Heroes Flight that has brought 33 World War II veterans to Washington, DC, free of charge.

I want to take a moment to thank these brave veterans visiting our Nation's Capital, including six that are from Texas: John Connolly, Longview, TX; Gene Germaine, Longview, TX; Glen Kernohan, Longview, TX; Hugh Neeld, Jacksonville, TX; Dale Whitton, Tyler, TX; and Jim David Woolverton, Tyler, TX.

During this trip, these veterans will tour Arlington National cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the United States Capitol, and other sites. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT A. WILD, S.J.

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I wish to honor Reverend Robert A. Wild, S.J., president of Marquette University in Milwaukee. Father Wild began his duties as president of Marquette University on June 17, 1996, with a pledge that he would "spare no effort in keeping Marquette on a strong and clear path into the future." As he enters retirement on July 31, 2011, it is my belief that my friend has not strayed from his pledge.

As a Catholic, Jesuit institution, Marquette promotes an academically rigorous, values-centered curriculum. Throughout his presidency, Father Wild has encouraged the practical preparation of students for work in an increasingly complex and diverse world, advocating for the formation of individuals as ethical and informed leaders in their religious, cultural, professional, and civic communities. Through this work, Father Wild has demonstrated a deep care and understanding of the development of young people.

Early in his career as president, Father Wild oversaw the rewriting of Marquette's mission statement in an effort to clearly define what all people,